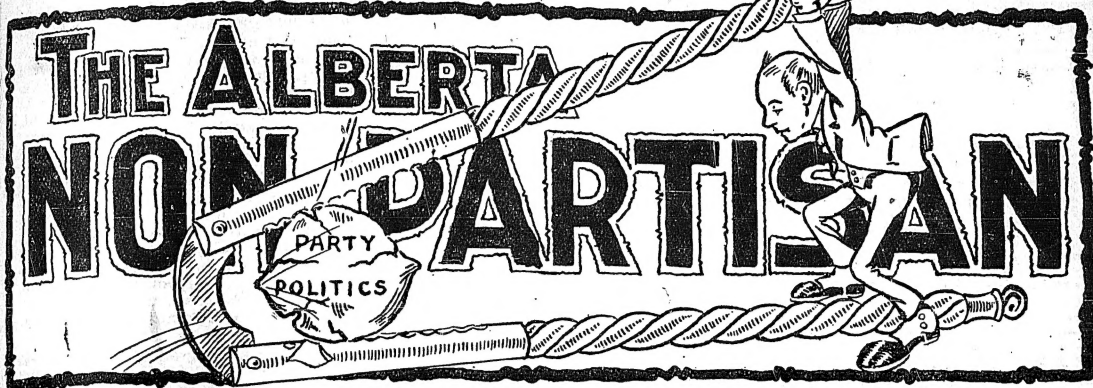


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VOL. 2



CALGARY, AUG. 12, 1918

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That day when every man on earth shall find his fullest power,  
When Mother love shall ring the world and bring a nobler hour.  
When every baby born shall live and blossom like a flower--  
That day is marching on!

The end of fort and battleship! The end of gun and sword!  
The end of shame and misery and vice and crime abhorred!  
The time for us to build on earth the Kingdom of the Lord!  
That day is marching on!

\*\*\*

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America admits men of all nations and races into her national fraternity, granting the right of equal suffrage and citizenship. They walk with us along our avenues of trade; they sit with us in our halls of legislation; they worship with us in our temples. Americans all, each race brings some rich gift of enterprise, idealism, and tradition, and are loyal to our genius of liberty under wise and just laws. America knows nothing of the Slavic race, nothing of the Teutonic race, nothing of the Saxon race, but only the Human race, one in origin and destiny as it must be one in a great fellowship of sympathy and service. Such is the spirit and

ideal under which our nation has grown--a faith profound and fruitful, hearty, happy, facing the future with the soul of adventure, often shadowed but never eclipsed, sometimes delayed but never defeated.

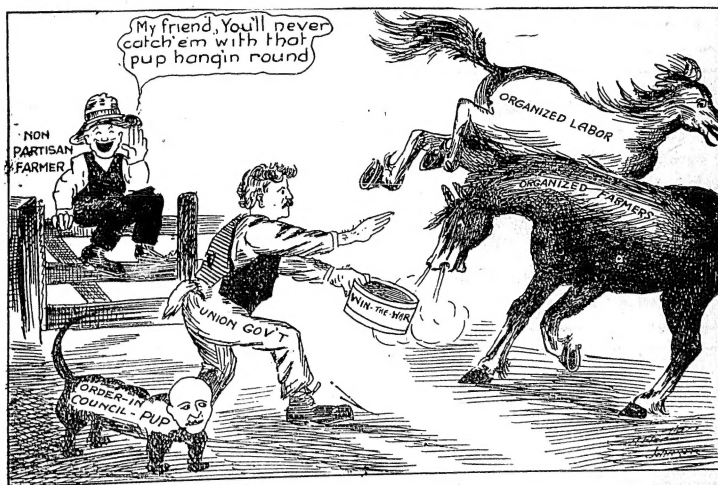
—Dr. Fort Newton, July 4th,  
City Temple, London, Eng.

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## CURRENT HISTORY

## MORE SCRAPS OF PAPER

"Conservation of Life" is a monthly bulletin published by the Commission of Conservation of the Dominion of Canada. The Commission of Conservation is headed by Clifford Sifton, a brother of Arthur L. Sifton, a member of that great Sifton family which has done so much to conserve in the Sifton manner the natural resources of the Dominion.

The Grain Growers' Guide is a farm paper, published at Winnipeg. Originally, it was very radical in tone, but growing wealth has softened the grating acerbity of its manner in this connection, and it now prefers to follow what no doubt it feels is a "more constructive policy." However, to give the devil his due, it still, once in a while, breaks out with a radical thought and recently it suggested the conscription of vacant lands at one-half of their value for settlement purposes. (Why one-half, the Guide only knows.)

This, of course, was too strong for Mr. Sifton, so in the Bulletin in which he publishes, appears the following:

To conscript land at half its real value—probably much less than the fictitious value now given to most land as a result of speculation—would be to confiscate real property. Whether the government has given such vacant land as a consideration to railway companies, or whether it has been purchased by the present owners, it has been acquired under contract, and to make such a contract a 'scrap of paper' would not be in keeping with principles of social justice.

Of course, no such contract should confer on the owner the right to use his property to the injury of his fellows. Life is higher and more valuable under the law than real property, even although the courts have not always held it to be so, and land should not be permitted to be used in such a way as to injure life—say as the site of a slum or for a sky-scraper with dark rooms. Nor should land be permitted to be held except for productive use. But both the protection of life and the prevention of absentee ownership of land can be effected without confiscation. To confiscate private rights in land would not only be opposed to justice, but would have the effect to driving capital and private enterprise away from land as an investment, thereby causing serious injury to the country. Conscription of life is on a different footing—since it does not involve the breaking of a sacred contract. It is the duty of every citizen to defend his country—subject to equality of treatment. For the same purpose it is the duty of all owners of wealth to contribute to the measures needed for defence; but the contribution should be

collected on a uniform basis, from owners of all forms of wealth. We should deal with bad ownership by direct prevention or punishment. The right to ownership of land under proper conditions should be encouraged.

Back up your eyes a moment and read that paragraph again and even again. I doubt if during the last three months there has been written in Western Canada so many errors in so small a space.

There is one thing for which we can never forgive the Germans. Long after their rotten ways have been forgotten and forgiven, after we have ceased to pay even the debts they have caused, we shall have it cast up to us that every forward move is a violation of the "scrap of paper." There is involved in this argument about the sacredness of a scrap of paper more room for fundamental error, more cover for vile pilferers than in all other arguments combined.

Let us clear the ground: Germany was not wrong in violating the scrap of paper if the object she sought to gain was right. She was wrong, palpably wrong, atrociously wrong, because she sought by this means not to free a people but to enslave them, not to break any chains of hers, but to fasten chains on others. It was the viciousness of her purpose to secure world domination, not the rending asunder of a musty old treaty which made of that once great nation an outlaw and a vandal. And just so it is with us in regard to the private ownership of land; if social justice and the welfare of humanity demand it, we shall rend asunder a thousand scraps of paper and take a wild and glorious joy out of the rending.

But let us examine this scrap of paper and test its quality. Even the Siftonian Conservator seems to question it. He says, "Land should not be permitted to be held except for productive use." But, ye ye gods, the "scrap of paper," or title he holds does not compel him to use it. So right on the start, the Conservator is the first "tearer of the scrap." But let us back up a bit and examine this title. Originally, it was a grant from the crown. In the old days, it came literally from the King. But the King made stipulations that those receiving the land should render certain services to the crown. In fact, all "taxes" were paid by the nobility, but the nobles grew stronger and so they went after the King and made him shift the taxes onto capital and labor. So, there you are, it's a stolen right in the first place, and this man Sifton has far too high a regard for such rights. Also note the claim that to conscript land would drive capital away from investment in land—

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not if capital wants to develop it. Would it? Capital buys land for the purpose of holding it out of use so that the unearned increment may accrue not to those who really create the values, but to those who hold the land. How rotten this conception of titles and justice really is can be seen if we examine a particular case. Suppose a man residing in China or Germany, or some other country, in herited some fifteen years ago a piece of land in Calgary. His title is good. He has never seen the land. He has done nothing to it. Yet to-day it may be worth five or ten times its value then. The value has been created by the labor of the people of this country. We hesitate to conscript that land. Yet we must have taken from those who really earned them the values we injected into the land. There is confiscation in real earnest.

But we have a right and a clearly defined legal right if we put it on that basis to confiscate or conscript land. We have the right to tax, and the right to tax carries with it the right to destroy. We applied this principle in the case of the liquor traffic. We put this business out of existence without compensation. We can conscript by taxation all the values out of the land. The principle involved has been early defined by no less conservative a body than the Supreme Court of the United States. Given a public necessity great enough, there can be no limit to the power and the right of the government to conscript land just as readily as it can conscript life. Sifton, or no Sifton, to the contrary, we shall yet live, if we take care of our health, until that glorious day when we shall see it done.

#### Wm. Pearce on Voltaire

Did you ever get so mad that you yearned to curse the blamed stupidity and lack of reason of some men who call themselves Canadians? I have been compelled to think of this just recently on running across an old pamphlet of one Wm. Pearce, the pet opponent of Single Tax or rather of the taxation of land values William owns.

Pearce quotes with approval and joy Voltaire's parable of "The Man with the Forty Crowns" and cites the brilliant literary artist as an authority on taxation. No man, not born an ass, would name Billy Sunday as an economic authority or quote the Rev. Kerby as a judge of Scotch whiskies, yet either of these would be just as sane a reference as bringing up Voltaire on a question of this kind.

Take a look at the facts: In a diatribe called "The Man with the Forty Crowns", Voltaire attacked the land tax idea.

Voltaire was not a political economist. He was a literary man, a master of satire, epigram and invective. He was a powerful

ful defender of religious liberty, but John Morley in his admirable life of Voltaire, which is a brilliant appreciation of the great Frenchman, says, "Liberty in spirituals was adorable to him but for liberty in temporals he never seems to have had any more than a very distant and verbal kind of respect."

Voltaire was a man of wealth, a keen speculator, a "dabbler in the funds." He was a fighter for religious liberty, but for economic liberty he cared nothing, and in knowledge of the problems of taxation he was quite dense—quite dense indeed. Against whom was Voltaire's attack made? Against none other than Turgot, the most brilliant minister of finance from the standpoint of actual accomplishment in taxation reform who ever held that portfolio under any king of France. Turgot was a follower of Quesney—a believer in the taxation of land values. He attempted to apply his principles under Louis 16th. But the nobility—the land-owning class—were too powerful for him. They and not the peasantry were the protestors. A Cabal headed by Marie Antoinette was formed. Turgot was dismissed and Necker, a German banker and muddler of finance took his place. Turgot knew history better than Wm. Pearce. "Sire," said he, as he placed his arguments in favor of the taxation of land values before the King, "remember it was weakness which brought the head of Charles I. to the block." Louis XVI. was not blind to the gathering storm but the power of the nobility was too great and the advice of Turgot was not accepted. Seventeen years later an aroused populace shouted with glee as the heads of the King, Queen and the Nobility rolled into the basket of the guillotine—the sanguinary answer of an enraged France to the injustice of an uneconomic system of taxation. The historical setting somewhat alters the "facts" of the "Parable of the Forty Crowns."

The trouble with a man like Pearce is that someone tells him about Voltaire's attitude and William never stops to reason. If he got a similar testimony from the Devil he would quote with equal gusto. I say unto you with all seriousness—Wm. Pearce, write all you like against land value taxations—write until it hurts, for anything you write cannot strengthen your position—your ground is untenable—your position is impossible—you are outflanked by facts—enfolded by reason and logic and your communications will soon be cut behind you by the onward march of the forces of progress which will stop not for a moment even though you bleated and barked against the taxation of land values until earth's last picture was painted.

—THE WANDERER.

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## THE POSTAL STRIKE

By Alex. Ross, M.L.A.

Western Canada has experienced a strike which will long be remembered by the public because of the complete disruption of the mail service and by the members of the trades unions because of its potentialities. Had the settlement been postponed for a few days longer in all probability industry would have been paralyzed. A more serious situation was averted by the Postal Workers when they decided to compromise and return to work.

### The Cause

There can be no question in the minds of those who investigated the grievance of the Postal Workers that the strike, although unfortunate, was justified. It is safe to say that had ordinary intelligence been displayed by Ottawa when the union officials first presented their case on April the 15th and later on the 24th, no-strike would have occurred because the postal workers, to the last moment, showed a tolerant generous disposition fully realizing what a strike meant to Canada at this time. The Postal Workers were asking for an increased wage to meet the ever-increasing demands on their exchequer. They wanted a minimum wage of \$1000 per year or a maximum of \$1400 or as an alternative a Conciliation Board.

The Government refused both but promised an investigation by a special committee of the Cabinet. The Premier had already made a promise three months ago to consider their case, but no action was taken then and here was another promise. The men's representatives claimed these were the best terms they could get and the eastern branch evidently accepted them as such and went back to work. The western men were dissatisfied.

Parliament at the last session had made provision for a bonus of \$150 per year but the department, owing to pressure of business, had not issued the checks. There was also some doubt as to who were to be recipients of the bonus. The Postal Workers did not ask for a bonus but did ask for a living wage which they named. No permanent appointments had been made to the staff for some time and a great many, all of them returned soldiers, were on the temporary list. Surely they were entitled to an increase. The Postal Workers finally agreed to ask for a conciliation board to clear up the whole mess; a board to determine wages and to conduct a complete investigation. This request seemed reasonable to the man in the street, but not by the Government, who refused to put the civil service in the same category as other labor organizations by granting a conciliation board.

## The Government's Defence

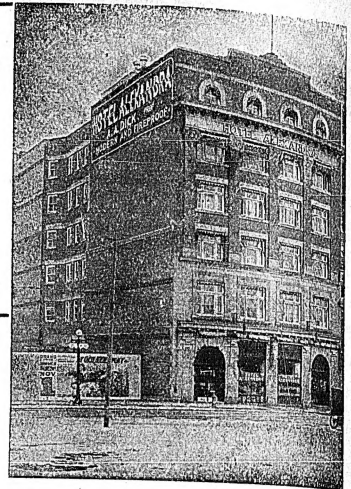
The statement by Acting Premier Doherty, that a conciliation board was unconstitutional, was regarded generally as a mere subterfuge. The real reason being that if a conciliation board was granted giving the Postal Workers representation the same as any other organization it meant abolishing the patronage system and separating the civil service from the politician. There seems to be no question that a more independent investigation than the one contemplated would reveal the fact that small wages, petty restrictions, and patronage, are the cause of the dispute. If the constitution stands in the way of improving our civil service then the constitution ought to be amended. No government was ever vested with greater power than the present one. The Order-in-Council of July the 5th which negated the decisions of the civil courts relative to the military service act, suspends our civil rights and leaves us without a weapon to challenge the constitutionality of anything the Government may do. Doherty has appointed himself the custodian of our constitution in place of the courts, a wonderful ally in times of stress. He has politically disarmed the nation by an Order-in-Council and is quite safe from an attack but he may expect a reprisal.

### Terms of Settlement

The Postal Workers are not satisfied with the settlement. Instead of getting a conciliation board they accepted the offer of an investigation by the Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Commission are political appointees and not at all likely to bring in a report that will embarrass the hand that feeds them. We probably should not anticipate the report of this commission but they have always been vested with very wide powers but never had the courage to exercise them. Although the strike is over the fight has just begun and nothing short of a complete reorganization of the civil service will be accepted.

### Public Sentiment

There has never been a strike in Canada where public sentiment was so solidly behind the strikers. With the exception of a few reactionary institutions such as the Board of Trade, the public feeling displayed would indicate that nothing less than a complete reorganization of the civil service will satisfy them. The Board of Trade and the Calgary Herald ran true to form and withdrew their support at the last moment and endeavored to break the strike. Their excuse was that Loughheed told them the Government could be relied upon to see the trouble adjusted. Another favorite excuse was that if the East were



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satisfied why shouldn't the West be? We wonder why some of us never thought of that argument last year when we were invited to support the Union Government. Quebec is satisfied, why shouldn't Alberta be? The Board of Trade has a large number of progressive members but it is unfortunate that their association condemns them to mental servitude. The strike was a wonderful demonstration of the power of organization. When the East accepted the McMordie terms the West had to create an independent organization which was done in a very short time. Considering the age of the Postal Workers' organization the strike was conducted in a business-like way. Although the result might have been more favorable the report of the civil service commission will be awaited with interest.

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"There is no wealth but life. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings."—Ruskin.

### DEMOCRACY AT HOME

It sounds well to say we are fighting for democracy, but many who use this phrase, and on the strength of it ask other people to do the fighting, would be exasperated if democracy should take a notion to fight for itself. The only way to get democracy we are fighting for is to practice it.

President Wilson has recently uttered timely advice to his fellow countrymen on this question. He says:

"I have called upon this nation to put its great energy into this war and it has responded with a spirit and a genius for action that has thrilled the world.

"I now call upon it, its men and women everywhere, to see to it that its laws are kept inviolate, its fame untarnished. Let us show our utter contempt for the things that have made this hideous among wars of history by showing how those who love liberty and right and justice and are willing to lay down their lives for them upon foreign fields, are ready also to illustrate to all mankind, their loyalty to all things at home which they wish to see established everywhere as a blessing and practice to the peoples who have never known the privilege of liberty and self government."

There is no Canadian statesman so far in our Government who has echoed the spirit of President Wilson in the matter of democracy at home. They are all interested in democratizing Germany. It will stand out in history that while our men were fighting autocracy abroad, our rulers at home inflicted upon the people the most autocratic laws to be found in the history of our country.

But victory for the Allies must mean democracy in Canada, and in every other country that has fought under the inspiration of our slogan. If not, we shall be defeated, no matter how decisively we may repulse the enemy attack in Europe. It would be great to have democracy in Canada.

\* \* \*

### NOT A DEMOCRAT

The people of the West for some time thought that in Mr. Crerar they had a strong democrat. The first shock to the contrary came when that gentleman allowed himself to be elected as a member of a government that passed the "War Times Election Act." This Act was scandalous, violating as it did every known principle of democracy. Mr. Crerar took office through the aid of this iniquitous Act, and made no objection to it whatever.

Many excused Mr. Crerar for allowing himself to be elected by this unfair means on the ground that he personally would have objected to the Act had he been a member of the Government at the time when it was passed. But what shall we say now?

A bill was introduced into the House of Commons some time ago, which made provision for the repeal of this disgraceful Act, and what was our surprise to find Mr. Crerar recorded in Hansard as having supported the continuance of the War Times Election Act. Even A. L. Sifton, that redoubtable Kaiser in embryo, wisely absented himself from the House, while T. Crerar, the supposed friend of democracy, voted against the repeal of the Selective Draft Voting Act.

It is well we have discovered in time that Mr. Crerar is not a democrat. His cabinet position has had the effect of the mess of pottage, and to-day he is in the hands of the most autocratic government Canada has ever known. After this, Mr. Crerar will not be considered as having anything of value to give to the new political movement among the farmers.

\* \* \*

### WHAT IS THE IDEA?

The whole situation with regard to Mr. R. B. Bennett's stand on the validity of the Order-in-Council, which cancelled the farmers' exemptions, has been very amusing. As we pointed out some time ago, Mr. Bennett was a member of Parliament at the time when the War Measures Act was passed, under the wide powers of which the Order-in-Council objected to by him was declared constitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada. Did he at that time perceive the dan-

ger within the scope of that Act and remain silent, or did its full significance escape his understanding? If the latter we could readily excuse Mr. Bennett, both for his silence when the Act was passed, and so in his activities to overthrow it; indeed, in this event his action would be worthy of highest praise.

But until we get more information on this subject we must confess ourselves at a loss to understand the attitude of a man who will help make a statute law while in parliament, and then undertake to fight the application of that statute when out of parliament. The note of suspicion as to sincerity creeps into the situation here, and much as we would like, we cannot give praise where condemnation is due.

\* \* \*

### TO HIS CREDIT

Mr. R. B. Bennett has no political home to-day; the house of his political fathers has no welcome for him; he is a party prodigal wandering in a strange land. As party politics is in Canada to-day, however it is more creditable to Mr. Bennett than otherwise that he can find no favor in the sight of the mighty.

It is well known that Mr. Bennett could not be controlled by his party to its own liking. Some say that this was so owing to the desires of Mr. Bennett to dominate all and sundry, and to convert the Conservative party into a Bennett party. Others say that the continual disagreement was due to the complete independence of our noted Western politician.

The first reason, namely, the Kaiser instincts of Mr. Bennett would not seem a very likely cause of the disruption. For the Kaiser proclivity should be an acquisition to any party, and it is hardly likely that such would have caused any serious trouble. We dissent from this and incline rather to the view that Mr. Bennett, notwithstanding his objectionable Imperialism, his Syndicate mind, and status quo outlook is a man of independent action and fearless in the pursuit of his view.

During his political career, Mr. Bennett has maintained an honest name, and attained a Dominion wide reputation as a lawyer of great ability, having unmistakable powers of keen insight. With his natural gifts, he could do great good if personal ambition could be forgotten, followed by a complete abandonment of his autocratic view. In other words, "if" Mr. Bennett had the democratic outlook he would have a great future in Canadian public life. As it is, there is no place for him.

## THE WESTERN LABOR NEWS

We congratulate the labor forces in Winnipeg for their courage and foresight as shown in the establishment of the Labor News. There is much need for such a journal. The daily press in control of the old political parties, and hampered by powerful financial interests, not only failed to be of service to labor, but it continually misrepresents and distorts things so as to become a hindrance and menace to the labor movement. All news is written up in the capitalistic press from the viewpoint of big business, and permeated by the spirit of avarice and hypocrisy. We seldom, if ever, find a desertion on the conditions of labor, but frequently read of the great bank clearings, etc., the purport of which is to bolster up a mock prosperity, and to blind the worker to his real condition.

There is a philosophic significance to news, for the happenings within the bounds of human experience are the inevitable outcome of the prevalent world view, reflecting itself in the social intellectual and moral life of the people. What we need is a paper that will give us the philosophy of news. If the news be bad, we must discover the false philosophy which underlies it. An increase in the bank clearings for instance when seen from the workers' standpoint will make a very different story from that which is written from the viewpoint of the proprietor and advocate of individualism.

We have faith in the venture of the Winnipeg Trades & Labor Council. We believe, from our personal knowledge of the editor of the Western Labor News that he will be able to interpret the news to his fellow workers, and that the paper under his able guidance will become an inspiration and a means of education. There is great need for this paper. It is the child of necessity, and in the great days that are coming, it will have a splendid opportunity to serve the common people.

The coming of the Labor News is just another sign of the new awakening. Farmers and industrial workers alike are now alive to the fact that they must have their own papers in order to counteract the false education of the daily press, and to give positive direction to democratic action. The press has been the greatest means whereby the capitalist has so long maintained his privilege. The press will become the greatest enemy of privilege and the greatest force for democracy when utilized by the workers. If we can afford to buy papers we should, buy the papers that champion the common weal, and thus not only help others, but help ourselves.

## THE RIGHT SPIRIT

In recent years there have been many resolutions of a patriotic character passed unanimously at many gatherings. Resolutions for national service, more production, conservation, etc., etc. Most of these resolutions are not worth the time employed in drafting them. They find a place in a head line in a daily paper, but that is about the extent of their value. What is needed is that the spirit shown by women like Mrs. Wm. Carson, of Calgary, should be in the people who pass so many patriotic resolutions.

Mrs. Carson is one of the most capable women in Calgary, and, being one of the most prominent, might have if she had chosen poured tea at every pink tea function. Her family has grown up; two of her sons have gone to fight the battles of democracy; one of whom has already given his life for the cause. When Mrs. Carson heard of the scarcity of farm help, she immediately elected to go on a farm as an ordinary servant girl. She has helped in washing clothes, peeling potatoes, cooking, feeding chickens and pigs, etc., on a western farm. She is doing this, not only because she desires to help the common cause, but because she loves to work, rather than pass resolutions which call for work on the part of other people.

We congratulate Mrs. Carson on her noble action; envy her joy in wholesome work, and recommend her course to the society women of Calgary. We could mention a number of women in Calgary who can talk patriotism, who would greatly benefit by Mrs. Carson's experience. They would return from the farm kitchen with a broader sympathy for the women who work, and would learn that their own hired girls are of infinitely more value to the world than they.

Mrs. Carson has the spirit of achievement; when she moves a resolution on more production, it will mean something because she knows how to carry it into effect.

\* \* \*

## GET TOGETHER

The Get-together message of Dr. Salem Bland well befits this time. Nationally, we are an East and a West at our broadest division; while more in detail we are a number of different groups of people, with varied ideals, aims and tongues. We must get together first as a people with common interests to carve out our common destiny. Canada, an autonomous nation, must be our first accomplishment.

Next, the industrial life of the nation must be conducted in the spirit of co-operation, each group of

workers performing its share as a member of the organic whole, and last, but not least, we must get together in our political life. Parties as constituted are useless, indeed they are hinderances, we must unite for the common good. This is a great message, and worthy of the efforts of the noble prophet who utters them to Canada in this hour of need.

\* \* \*

## THE COURT MOURNS

According to a press despatch, King George has ordered the British court to go into mourning for a month in honor of the late Czar of Russia, whose death at the hands of the revolutionary party has been confirmed. This procedure may be proper from the viewpoint of Royal etiquette, but in the light of the declared Allied aims, it seems nothing short of ridiculous.

As to the mourning of the Court, we are not concerned, even if it were to mourn to the end of its history, but we do think it would have been more fitting had the King ordered a period of mourning for the fallen heroes of Mons, or of the Marne, or of Ypres. We might, in working out the merit of the Czar for this honor, as compared with that of the most commonplace soldier of the line, state the proposition as follows: If the Court mourns one month for the Czar, who did all in his power to defeat the Allied cause, and whose very existence was opposed to democracy, how long should the Court mourn for an ordinary private soldier, who fell in the struggle for democracy. We figured this out, and find that, in order to allow the Court to mourn the merits of this private, eternity would have to be lengthened out by so many years, that the paper shortage prohibits us from giving the figures. This may be the reason why the Court mourns for the Czar instead of the soldier.

\* \* \*

The postal service is under the direct control of the government, and yet the executive had no power to grant an increase of wages to the postal workers. The C. P. R. is not under the control of the Government, and yet an Order-in-Council grants a 20% increase in freight rates over and above the 15% already granted. The reason for this is that the C. P. R. owns the government instead of the government owning the C. P. R.

\* \* \*

A wise government would take over all railroads and operate them for the service of the state. A foolish government will impose an unbearable tax upon the people to make profit for railroad magnates.

# Our Parliamentary Letter

From Our Special Correspondent

## THE CONDITIONS OF A LASTING PEACE



Ottawa, August 1st.

Mr. Thorstein Veblen is one of the most distinguished of living American economists and students; he is a Norwegian by birth but has long been settled in the United States where he was Professor of Political Economy in

Chicago and now occupies a similar position in Columbia University, Missouri. He is the author of many well known books such as "The Theory of the Leisured Class," and "Imperial Germany and the Industrial Revolution." Many people, including Mr. Graham Wallas, perhaps the foremost of British sociologists, rank Veblen as a genius. His Norwegian birth has perhaps left him with a somewhat awkward style but any book which bears his name is always worth reading. His latest volume which he published was entitled "The Nature of Peace and the Means of its Perpetuation." This is in no sense a pacifist book though certain foolish people have attempted to decry it as such. It is a careful and exhaustive study of the conditions which must be achieved in order to secure a reasonable chance of lasting peace. There are close on 400 pages of most interesting and well-reasoned argument which form a perfect mine of intelligent thought and interesting speculation.

Mr. Veblen has no illusions about the criminal guilt of the Junker classes of the Central Empires but he holds the view that this war was mainly the direct product of commercial greed and the capitalist system. He is quite willing to see established the League of Nations which President Wilson and others have so ably advocated but he is also firmly of the opinion that its efforts will be comparatively fruitless to avert war unless accompanied by far-reaching economic and social changes in every community. In his belief the existing social and industrial order is utterly hopeless radically unjust and rotten to the core. Selfish competition and unrestricted rights of private ownership have brought about a state of affairs whereby the mass of mankind in all civilized countries are faced all their lives by daily fear of want and hardship. In fact the existing economic system has for some time ceased to be tolerable to the average man. In many European countries by 1914, conditions had reached a breaking point and there was industrial unrest and fierce democratic ferment visible on every side. All that delayed a bitter social revolution was a sense of danger from external enemies and a resulting desire to maintain national solidarity. It was in a large degree an apprehension of the results of this ferment that made the prospect of war attractive, if not imperative, to the ruling classes of Germany, Austria and Russia. Large numbers of them believed that they could avert social revolution by foreign wars, a time honored device among selfish oligarchic cliques.

The war has come with all its horrors and miseries and has brought crashing to the ground the whole fabric of the civilization that 1914 knew. As long as the military struggle is in process the democracy is completely at the mercy of the exploiting and governing classes though

it is only fair to acknowledge that the socialization of industry has made gigantic strides in all warring countries. But the question of the faulty distribution of wealth has been accentuated by the processes of war and Mr. Veblen's conclusion at the end of his book is that the one thing required to participate the long delayed struggle between the "haves" and the "have nots" is a secure political peace such as the League of Nations may promise. He foresees that the end of the war will bring political and social revolutions in every country which has participated in it and sarcastically warns the ruling classes not to make too secure a peace but to leave alive enough scope for animosities to distract the workers from the economic problem. Certainly there is visible in every land a rising tide of discontent with our social and economic system which grows more acute as the strain of war increases and Canada is no exception to the rule.

Yet the majority of our politicians and financial magnates in Canada who are at the best of times very slothful students of the affairs of the world outside their own narrow business confines seem totally blind to the change which is looming up. The civilized world has made up its mind to be done with forever with the outworn military autocracy which has survived in Central Europe and another kind of autocracy should watch the proceedings with interest. This continent, and Canada more so than the United States since President Wilson took in hand the democratization of control at Washington is the home of a new autocracy of organized monopoly, of special privilege and national exploitation which is supported and exalted by a servile press dependent on plutocratic money bags. The Allies have just been celebrating the great French anniversary of the Fall of the Bastille.

Do the men whose specialty is robbery of the people know what France to-day, the admiration of the world and the bravest pioneer that democracy ever knew did on July 14th, 1789? Do they understand the meaning of the programme of the British Labor Party which has been published in millions of copies and freely circulated on this continent and which is the most progressive political platform ever compiled? Do they realize that a financial oligarchy of arrogant law-defying wealth will in the days to come be just as odious to a free people as the privileged classes in France were in the days of Louis the 16th and the Prussian Junkers are to-day? Have they not a notion that all our soldiers who have been told daily since the war began that their lives do not belong to them but to the community may return to ask with stern indignation what about the fortunes of the financial mandarins and millionaire exploiters—are their hoards theirs for ever by inalienable right?

The fact is that the achievement of political democracy by itself is insufficient to remedy the ills of humanity—economic democracy of which the existing system is the complete negation, must be achieved as well. As long as we tolerate competitive capitalism and unrestricted rights of private ownership, economic democracy is an idle dream. Now the workers and producers of the world realize to-day that they are paying in blood and sorrow and treasure for a conflict of whose shaping they were innocent save in as far as they placidly tolerated the upgrowth of a system

Continued on page 12

## Repairs While You Wait

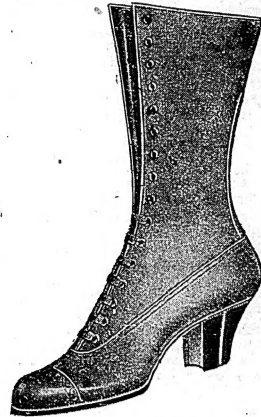
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# The Non-Partisan Movement

AN EXPLANATION TO N.P.L.  
MEMBERS

In our last issue we announced the securing of Mr. J. S. Woodsworth as Secretary for the purpose of undertaking educational work for the League. His long training and wide experience in public work fitted him for the position. But we regret to announce that conditions have changed very much since our last issue and that in consequence Mr. Woodsworth was unable to stay as Secretary to the League.

During his first week in the north country a blighting frost ruined a promising crop with the result that organizing work had to be curtailed instead of having the best months of the year ahead for organizing. Recognizing the position had entirely changed, Mr. Woodsworth on his return advised the Executive that in view of the unprecedented conditions of drought in the south and frost in the north, that all extension work be indefinitely deferred, with the result that he was reluctantly released from his position with the movement.

Mr. Woodsworth went carefully into the situation analysing it in every important detail and suggested several changes in organization work and financing which can be worked out and presented for adoption at the annual convention. The finances of the movement depends entirely on membership fees and membership depends largely on crop conditions. The payment of membership by note and postdated cheque was not approved of and it was considered unsound business to finance propaganda and organizers on the strength of it. There is much truth in this and the future of the League will depend a good deal on the integrity of the men who adopted this method of payment. If the same percentage as before of our postdated members remain true to their obligation the League has nothing to fear from hard times but if they fail the fight will be a sterner one by an hundredfold.

In view of this it was not considered advisable to increase the official staff at the present time, and it was decided to carry through the winter months relying on those who have stood by the movement in the past regardless of the difficulties encountered and oblivious to the sacrifices that had to be made. The present year is remarkable in Alberta but the farmers with whom we work have faced unfavorable crop conditions before and the work of pioneering is never a luxurious one.

We regret our proposed activities will thus be curtailed for Mr. Woodsworth reported a very enthusiastic reception of the principles of the movement, the country being dead ripe for the propaganda. He has offered to undertake at a later date a lecture tour in the interests of the Non-Partisan Movement if arrangements can be made. We trust, however, that in a year from now the services of Mr. Woodsworth may be still available to be secured permanently, and if so, the whole democratic movement in Alberta will be the richer for his presence with us.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NORTH DAKOTA PRIMARIES

Kensal, North Dakota,  
July 23rd, 1918



C. W. McDONNELL  
Member of North  
Dakota Legislature

It is a sort of an elimination contest in each party, to select the party candidate for the regular election in the fall.

Every voter is registered as belonging to one of the political parties, and at the primary may vote for candidates of that party, and no other. Each party's candidates are separate ballots. Those winning at the preliminary election become the regular party candidates at the fall election, at which time all candidates' names of all parties are on one ballot, and the voter may vote as he pleases, regardless of party affiliation.

You have noted that the League candidates were running as Republicans or Democrats. The reason is this. Our election laws provide that a candidate, in order to have his or her name printed on the official ballot, must file with the proper officer a petition bearing the names of qualified voters, equal in number to a certain percentage of the vote cast for the candidate of that party at the preceding election, asking that such name be placed on the ballot. This absolutely blocks the starting of a new political party, so our candidates have to run on one of the old party tickets. This handicaps us considerably, and causes much confusion, especially at the primary. It happened this year that every one of our candidates for State offices was on the Republican ballot. Hence a man who was registered as a Democrat could not vote for any of them. But we nominated all of them just the same, and this fall the good League Democrats can help to swell the majority.

Some of the papers state that the League men have been "elected." This is a mistake—they have been nominated, and we believe they will be elected this fall.

The opposition is trying to belittle the vote received by our men, but the fact is that nearly the entire ticket received about four times the majority they did two years ago.

The other fellows confine themselves to abuse and misrepresentation—they do not dare to discuss our platform. The absolute justice and fairness of it is too evident. The National Government has put about one-half of it into operation already as making for the greatest efficiency at the least cost during these trying times. It is a hard proposition to defend, that it would not work equally well during normal times.

The vote this year was more sharply drawn as between towns and country than it was two years ago. While the interest of the small town business man is identical with the farmer, the useless middleman in the big cities can see what is in store

for him if the League wins out. So they carried on a strong campaign against the League through the various trade papers. The commercial travelling men, almost to a man, were fighting us. Nearly every one of them carried a grip full of anti-League literature, and not only distributed it among the merchants, but handed it out to the farmers at every opportunity. As there are 4,000 commercial travellers constantly at work in this state, it gave the opposition a fine organization all ready to use. This accounts for the strong vote against us in the towns. There is no doubt, however, that we will do better this fall. Some of the merchants are awaking to the fact that they are rapidly becoming simply selling-agents for the big interests, and unless they co-operate with the farmers, the farmers will go into business for themselves on the co-operative plan. This condition is rapidly being brought about in the grain trade, and will eventually be extended to other lines.

It is amusing to read an item in some old gang paper, saying that since the election is over we should "lay aside politics and devote ourselves to the winning of the war!" Just as though they had not been telling us that the League was disloyal and the surest way to help win the war was to put it out of business! Now they say, "Let's forget our fight on the League and do something useful!"

We believe that any movement, call it politics or what you will, that will clean up the unholy profiteering that is going on in some places, make the state machinery more efficient, and cut out the useless waste between producer and consumer, is very much in order at this time, and will go far toward helping to win the war. That, of course, is the one big problem, but because we cannot all be in the trenches is no reason why we should not do what we can on this side to make it a better place for the boys when they come back.

—C. W. McDONNELL.

\* \* \*

## IMPERATIVE NEED FOR INDEPENDENT PRESS

Farmers Want News From Unbiased Source

By P. S. AUSTIN, RANFURLY, ALTA. (Ex-Vice-Pres. U.F.A. and Director U.G.G.)

My recent article in THE NON-PARTISAN was not intended so much as a defence of the Industrial Workers as it was to illustrate the power of the Press in molding public opinion, and to point out its disorganizing influence. We have under way a great farmers' movement whose interests are antagonistic to that of the organized capitalistic powers whom the press represents, and it is certain the farmers' movement will be handled in the same way that they have handled all other protesting organizations.

Recently we were grieved and disappointed to read in our press of the disloyal attitude of the Dakota N.P.L. farmers, but on investigation from unprejudiced sources we find we have been grossly deceived by capitalistic report. There is a spirit of organization prevailing everywhere and every class is prompted by some unseen power to prepare its organization in order that it may survive the awful struggle which seems inevitable after the war.

This new spirit is expressed by the farmers in their system of co-operative distribution here and everywhere. Hearty

# SOME THINGS MUST BE DONE !



Our Parliamentary Correspondent wrote in our July 5th issue: "Mr. Crothers is always asleep or nodding drowsily, even during the Premier's most important speeches."

co-operation is given instead of discouragement as in the past and they cover their losses in distribution over and over again by subscribing more capital. They have learned to know that financial assistance from banks only leads to embarrassment, and under no circumstances will they use bank money to carry on their commercial undertakings. This is a new and encouraging development, as only a few years ago it was hard to get them to look beyond a ten-cent-piece. Their vote then was 50-50 against each other and this remarkable change has come about on account of this overwhelming spirit of organization.

Now, the farmer who will not organize is a laughing stock. At last he is willing to sacrifice time and money, and realizes the folly of his 50-50 vote. There are thousands of those local co-operative societies in America and reports say that lately farmers have been falling over themselves to join them. They are convinced something is wrong, like "animals sensing a storm."

They are now convinced and they are getting ready to right this wrong, by accepting the first shelter or opportunity of getting together. The profit saved in the distribution of gopher poison or formaldehyde, is not their real motive for organizing. Since the Non-Partisan Movement in the Dakotas has become a real live issue the farmers from the trading locals are coming into the ranks of the N.P.L. by the thousands, evidently realiz-

ing that their problems must be solved in an independent political way. They have found out that the handling of commodities as a method of correcting existing economic conditions is as slow a process as killing a dog by cutting his tail off, or eliminating booze by closing the bars and still permitting its manufacture and distribution indiscriminately.

Away back in the early days of the N.P.L. a few farmers protestingly attended the Democratic and Republican primaries and convention, and were bluntly told to go home and slop their pigs, which was more in keeping with their intelligence than taking an active part in politics. They did return to the pigs but this rebuff spurred them to starting a get-together movement, and they found that their power, if properly directed, could give them control of any old political machine rendering their bosses as helpless as babes. The Press says that Townley was not a successful farmer but the farmers rejoice that Townley has at last succeeded in organizing them for independent political action. No more 50-50 vote for them.

The Press of Canada far enough away from the Dakotas to prevent denial, says the N.P.L. farmers are not loyal, but no mention is made of President Wilson's co-operation with the leaders of the N.P.L. in order that production be encouraged.

The press tells the farmer he is a slacker for forsaking his traditional party politics for this new and untried political experi-

ment, and the farmer enjoys the compliment.

The capitalistic press deplore the policy of the farmers establishing their own newspapers as it is against their interests to have the people posted on economic problems. The farmers take the stand that where the press or any other institution has failed in its service, their replacement is justified. Our ambition is to establish in every province a press which will express the aspirations of the masses instead of serving the classes. That movement has already made its start.

—P. S. AUSTIN.

\* \* \*

We regret this issue being late owing to congestion of matter at Post Office through the Postal Strike. With several wagon-loads of periodicals at the printing works in addition, it was useless attempting to send out the regular issue. Our cartoons were prepared during the strike. The next issue will be August 30th.

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## The Non-Partisan Letter Box

A FARMER DEMONSTRATES NEED FOR INDEPENDENT PRESS

Strathmore, August 3rd, 1918.

Mr. Editor:—

I cannot too strongly endorse the letter written in your issue of July 19th last by W. R. Ball, as well as one in a much earlier issue, on the necessity for a paper owned and controlled by farmers. Perhaps you will allow me, to relate my personal experience, in order to show farmers how necessary it is to finance their own paper.

In the early years of this century I lost the rent of a small farm near Seattle, Wash., through the impossibility of a man being able to sue a landlord for damages if the latter did not total \$1500 or over.

Just at this juncture Mr. Miller Freeman, editor and proprietor of the weekly agricultural paper, offered me a position on the editorial staff; which I gladly availed myself of. Soon a tour of Snokomish county with Mr. J. F. Littory (county horticultural inspector) was undertaken, in which we went speaking to the farmers from schoolhouse to schoolhouse. I had a splendid chance to visit the various farms and get up interesting articles of actual experimentations by individual farmers, etc.

Meanwhile I realized, that not half my work was done unless I could detect what was the greatest evil affecting the success of the community; throw it up in the limelight and at once introduce the proper remedy. It did not take a genius to see how the dairymen of Snokomish county (which is a county specially adapted to the production of milk), were getting hoodwinked and robbed by the big privately-owned creameries of Seattle.

I was in great favor with the boss since, "Your matter is very readable and your logic good," he said. But no sooner had I gathered sufficient data to make matter that was worth while, than the blue pencil started in; and on my next visit to the office I met the chief in a towering rage. "Say! have you wheels loose in your head? Do you see these pages of display ads from the leading creamery-men? I lose all that if I publish such stuff as you write now; I am not here for the education of the down-trodden farmer. If that fool wants information let him pay for it himself. I have no rich Dutch uncle keeping me, I am running this paper for the bread and butter of my wife and the kiddies, and not as a charity organization for ignorant, indigent hayseeds."

"All right, Mr. Miller, do what you please but as I am a down-trodden farmer I will not prostitute my manhood for the sake of my stomach. I shall either write the truth as I see it or sell my labor-power to a master and wield pick and shovel till I get back to the land again. Adieu!"

And the Editor is right: we, as farmers, must run our affairs ourselves if we would be men, or take the consequences of being the fools amongst a bunch of knaves.

Yours for the straight back-bone,

—DANIEL F. BOISSEVAIN.

FAVORS UNION OF LABOR AND FARMERS

Three Hills, Alta.,  
July 27th, 1918.

Editor, ALBERTA NON-PARTISAN:—

There is much comment to-day on the attitude of the U.F.A. My idea is that the U.F.A. has reached the limit of its powers and cannot advance any further until it sees the need for Political action. As for the U.F.A. owning a paper and controlling one, I do not think it can be done successfully, as all the weight and advantages for a newspaper are on the other side, and against us, owing to the fact that a paper is largely dependent for its existence on its advertisers, who are not generally favorable to progressive ideas.

The U.F.A. and every other united body will have to go into politics as a force towards cleaner government. The U.F.A. does not ask for anything that does not benefit the working-man, therefore we should unite our forces for mutual benefits.

It was proved at the last election that we farmers were not strong enough to run a candidate successfully. Why? Because we did not stand together and could not get the working-man's vote.

The Non-Partisan farmers and the Working-men's Unions should get together and choose a real live candidate to run as a representative of both parties as their interests are identical. Seats can be won by combining forces and putting in a man who does not fear the old political parties.

Party politics may be all right but we want to gain enough power in Parliament so that the Government will have to give us what we want through fear of being upset.

The essential point in Non-Partisan politics is the "Right of Recall" which should be strictly adhered to.

—JIM LEA.

GLAD TO GET TO THE FRONT

This is another letter received by D. H. Galbraith, of Vulcan, from his brother, Capt. Charles Galbraith, of the Army Medical Corps. It will be of interest to many of our readers

June 22nd, 1918

Dear Brother:—

Have just had final warning for embarkation to La Belle, France. Eleven weeks have elapsed since I received orders but my name was lost in the shuffle at the War Office and now someone has suddenly discovered I was still in England.

Being stationed in England is like taking no part in the War and had I desired that I would have stayed at home. It now gives me a feeling of contentment to know that another chance is being given in which to support the cause of liberty and freedom.

There has been heavy casualties in Regimental Medical Officers and good ones are at a premium. Am hoping with my past record and experience it won't be long before I join a battalion in the front line. The exciting experience of life will then begin.

Was pleased to hear you have a big wheat crop in this year and trust the season will be a favorable one, for all the wheat that can be grown will be needed this year. Good-bye for the present. My next letter may be from the inferno.

—BRO. CHAS.

SAYS GOVERNMENT SHOULD ASSIST NEEDY FARMERS

Sullivan Lake P.O., Alta.,  
August 4th, 1918.

Dear Editor:—

I read with interest in your last issue the topic of address at Youngstown and the message you proclaimed there. I am also dead sure that political action must follow industrial organization.

We had a very successful organization meeting here during June and your organizer, Mr. Moore, gave a good presentation of the aims of the N.P.L. and the need for its existence. No doubt had the crop prospects been brighter it would have been the most talked of topic throughout the whole Province. Many of my neighbors here say they would help along work of that kind when conditions permit.

In a previous issue of THE NON-PARTISAN I read of the North Dakota Legislature assisting the farmers who had the misfortune to lose their crops. That same kind of thing can happen here when we get a majority in our Legislature. This is our second season with little or no crop and farmers are worried about it. The Government should step in and assist the most needy cases. No person that has tried to raise a crop and get an honest living should be allowed to go short of food.

Let me know any time you should be coming this way to speak within a radius of 20 miles.

Yours in Liberty, Truth and Justice,  
—G. S.

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# My Impressions of Farm Life

By Mrs. Wm. Carson



MRS. WM. CARSON, CALGARY

Being an anti-militarist—and yet if loyalty to the best interests of the people, means patriotism, then I am intensely patriotic; and in these strenuous times wishing to take my place with those who are willing to go where they are most needed, I volunteered as kitchen help on a farm. It was my first experience, as a wage-earner. I had heard a great deal about the hardships a working woman on a farm endures, but I meant to be no slacker, and made up my mind to bear any hardship that lay before me in my capacity as "hired girl."

I was therefore agreeably disappointed to find myself in an immaculately clean and refined home. The hour for rising was to be 5.30 but the kind-hearted farmer frequently omitted knocking at my door until 6 o'clock. The work was similar to the work found in a city home because the men did the milking. However, I had to wash the separator and make the butter. My initiation into real farmhouse work was the day I undertook the churning, and I found it one of the most agreeable experiences of my life on the farm. Indeed it will remain long with me as a pleasant memory. I took the churn outside on a morning such as we only get in Western Canada—the air so clear and pure, one would have thought that the breeze came from the sea, so fresh and invigorating it was—and that in the month of July. I, who had lived in the city for the last thirty years, revelled in the scene—the stillness, the beauty of the sky, the vastness of the prairie delighted me, and my work of churning did not interfere with, but rather enhanced my enjoyment.

I am glad to say that my first butter was of a very excellent quality. Probably because the weather was not hot, and the water was, I think, the clearest and coldest I ever saw. I washed that butter until it was firm and without a trace of butter-milk to be found in it. I always looked forward to churning day with expectancy and I never failed to enjoy it.

The only task I did not enjoy was attending to the poultry, but I overcame my distaste for that work and even began

to find something interesting and pleasurable in it.

I would like to remark that I think the interests on a farm much more wholesome for children than those in the city. The care of young animals, the calves, the colts, the chickens and the dogs, all appeal to children and make up so much of the pleasure of childhood on a farm. I think it more humanizing and altogether more satisfactory than the continual moving pictures and similar entertainments for children in the city.

My short sojourn in the country increased my sympathy with farmers, and particularly with farmers' wives.

The farmer has never received what his contribution to the public deserves. Legislation should be directed more and more to his benefit. Conditions should be made as nearly ideal in the country as possible. I think that would largely solve both city and country problems. If rural life were made so attractive that the youth of the city would seek a career in the country, overcrowding and unemployment would be greatly lessened.

The land should be taken from speculators, divided into reasonably-sized farms for those who would build homes on it. The settlers should not be so far apart as to suffer from loneliness. More attention should be paid to good roads, good schools, good hospitals and good churches.

The farmer's contribution to society is perhaps greater than that of any other calling or profession. It would only be fair then that he and his family should enjoy in return what medical science, what educational facilities can give; in short, that what is best in life should be within reach of the farm home.

And surely the state might relieve the farmer of some of the anxiety attending the bad years when drought or frost or hail destroys the crop.

If the C.P.R. can increase their freight rates twenty per cent. so that their enormous dividends be not lessened, on account of increased cost of labor, then the farmer (without whom the C.P.R. could scarcely exist) might demand that he receive consideration in his difficulties. However, the advice, "Workers of the world, unite," will apply equally well to farmers. Union among farmers will place power in their hands—power that if rightly used may make life on the farm all that is most desirable, and enviable.

I would not have missed my experience as farm kitchen help, and I wish that many city women would have the same experience. City women and country women coming together, learning each others' problems, would open up a wider viewpoint for each, and would result in mutual helpfulness and sympathy.

The lure of the country draws me! I would like to return as kitchen help another summer and I would prefer to go where there are little children. If any overworked farmer's wife wishes my assistance I will refer her to my last employer for a recommendation.

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FORD AND CHEVROLET SPECIALISTS



## OUR PARLIAMENTARY LETTER

Continued from page 7

which was bound as wise men like Edward Carpenter the Socialist sage, foresaw, to end in the present debacle. The majority of intelligent workers are to-day intent on ending the old system of plunder and profit seeking and are groping blindly about for a means to accomplish its destruction. Some of them favor peaceful industrial reorganization on the lines of the English Whitley report, others extension of the co-operative idea; some like the I.W.W. incline to industrial sabotage, others like the Australian Labor Party believe in direct political action and a strong and growing body favor the Bolshevik methods of forcible revolution. On the other hand the owners of vested interests whom the circumstances of the war have allowed to amass even greater wealth than before are planning and scheming to strengthen the buttresses of the existing order. Mr. Veblen holds that each party in the economic conflict now looming up is so firmly convinced of the justice of its cause and so unresponsive to the claims of the opposing side that compromise is well nigh inadmissible. In such a contingency he says the evidence of history shows that resort to force is always inevitable and it should never be forgotten that with large masses of the workers now trained to arms, industrial and political revolution will be infinitely more difficult problems for the possessing classes to handle. The result of a bitter social conflict in the decade to follow the war would not be for a moment doubtful but it might be disastrous for society at large. He therefore warns the possessing classes of the realities of their position and advises them to make a speedy readjustment of their viewpoint and tactics. Half measures on the part of politicians and directing financiers will not suffice. In his view immensely radical changes are imperative and he says, "When a radical change of policy has become imperative as in the present juncture, over-ripe statesmen will always endeavor to remedy things without altering them. That is the ear-mark of over-ripe statecraft but it is not the way that is taken by the course of events."

In the United States some capitalist leaders like Mr. Schwab who has declared that in the future the working classes will undoubtedly rule, is awake to the full realities of the situation, but here in Canada our capitalist mandarins like the Bourbons learn nothing and forget nothing and the manifesto of that precious body the Canadian Industrial Reconstruction Association is almost mediæval in its outlook. Its members have evidently a very dim realization that the world has undergone any change since the happy days of 1914. They are blissfully unconscious of what is agitating most intelligent citizens and students of politics, i.e., namely, whether there shall be a bloody revolution after the war in all belligerent countries or a peaceful revolution producing radical changes. Bloody revolutions are always dangerous games and are liable to bring misery and hardship, even upon the victors. But some sort of revolution in Canada there must be and the hope of its peaceful accomplishment lies in the efficient combination of the elements who desire it. The vast mass of the Canadian people are the farmers, the artisans, and brain workers of the professional classes who are radically dissatisfied with the existing social and economic order which leaves the contrivance of their destinies in the hands of a limited clique of financiers, speculators and manipulators whose

whole horizon is bounded by their bank accounts and strong boxes. The numbers of this latter class are limited and they have only been able to acquire and perpetuate their control of our national life from a servile willingness of both the old political factions to compete for the honor of serving as their lackneys and minions. In the end the people themselves are responsible for failure to elect men of character and mental calibre sufficiently good to refuse to be the servile tools of a bourgeois plutocracy. What is wanted in Canada is the immediate development and organization of a people's party, (its actual name is immaterial), in which the organized farmers, labor, the Great War Veterans and such brain workers as possess real ideals and democratic instincts can contrive to wrest political power from the effete political cliques now in the saddle and the greedy plutocracy whom they serve. These separate groups may have differences of opinion on certain points of policy and methods of action but all have a common interest in ending the existing system of blunder and profit. It would not be difficult to organize concerted action for political action and allocate seats to each group where their candidates would secure the united support of all the democratic and progressive forces. In rural constituencies, for instance, the farmers could undertake to choose returned soldiers for a certain proportion of their candidates and in the cities labor and the Veterans could divide the seats by agreement. What the liberal and conservative elements of the Unionist Party managed to do can be done by other people. If energy and sanity were exercised, the combination would be irresistible. Divided each of these groups would be helpless, united they could transform Canada into a real democracy where there was neither sad poverty nor wanton riches, where there was good government, and an ample measure of justice and freedom; where each individual had full opportunity for self-expression and where the average of human happiness exceeded that of any other country beneath the sun.

—"BYSTANDER."

## OUR EDITORS ABROAD

The Canadian journalists now in Europe are a very bright and variegated lot. They have come prepared to learn, and they are learning—also admiring. A young man from Quebec, in French, invited me to tell him the whole truth about all our principal politicians. I judiciously refrained. Another, from London, Ont., handsomely admitted that our London "had it" over his. The visitors were really immensely impressed by Mr. Lloyd George's oration at the private dinner given in the banquetting cave of the Savoy on Friday of last week. The Prime Minister was never heard to suit his audience better, but the speech was imperfectly reported. The reply to it was given by Mr. Woods. When I asked who was Mr. Woods, I was told that he was "a prairie man." He is the editor of the "Calgary Herald," and the most popular person in the delegation. His speech was "the least as is" long, but it was an admirable speech, delivered with a great deal of charm. When Sir Robert Borden bayed his voice across the enormous cave, you might have thought that nobody could maintain the role of the British bull-dog better than he. General Turner, however, maintained it better. The restrained vigor of his tenacity was simply terrific. He showed a demeanour fit to strike Hindenburg with apoplexy.—The New Statesman, London, Eng.

## PANTAGES

WEEK OF AUG. 12TH

## "OLIVES"

Musical Comodry

Octavia Handsworth  
& Co.

"Twice a Week"

OTHER FEATURES

ALLEN  
THEATRE

MON. TUES. WED. &amp; THURS.

MARY  
PICKFORD

IN

"How could  
you, Jean"

FRIDAY - SATURDAY

ENID BENNETT

IN

"A Desert  
Wooring"

# LIFE AND WORK

## FIRST STEPS IN NEW SOCIAL ORDER.

### ARTICLE VII

The newness of the New Social Order in Canada will depend largely on the extent of control of public affairs attained by the democratic forces. If after the war we go back to our old parties, and our old industrial bosses, we will be just where we were—in the same old place. There can be no doubt that such is not the desire of the average person at this moment. Judging from the signs of the times, the Canadian people will be pretty tired of things as they are by the time the war is at an end. But desire that does not lead to action is not dynamic and is valueless. If we don't want things as they are to continue, we must act.

The first step toward the success of democracy in Canada will be consolidation of the democratic forces, so that we may be prepared for action as a unit. The extent to which the farmer and industrial worker will influence the future of Canadian public life will depend upon the measure of unity attained. There must be union between the agrarian and the industrial worker, either this or both forces will be left impotent on the field of our future struggles.

That there are difficulties in the way of this union we must be frank to admit and fearless to face. These difficulties may be removed if we meet them face to face, but never if we content ourselves by saying: "There are difficulties in the way." The road to the political union of farmer and urban worker bristles with sharp peaks, and is often barred by gorges and ditches, but a few good road builders can make the way passable and these should be at work now before the time for concerted action be upon us.

There is a decided difference in outlook between the farmer and that of the factory worker, chiefly due to the influence of the different environments. The farmer is essentially more individualistic in outlook and blinded by a false sense of independence of all others. His comparative isolation, and his working alone accounts for this. The factory worker on the other hand is thrown into a social environment; thousands of his fellows are engaged with him in making the same article. This is conducive to a decided social outlook. But even the industrial worker is as narrow as the farmer in that his greater activity takes place in the struggle to maintain the wage standard for his particular craft in-

stead of seeking the abolition of the wage system for all crafts.

But the greatest barrier to be overcome is not that of social outlook, but rather the actual existing industrial relations between the farmer and the industrial worker. Both are sons of toil, yet the laborer looks upon the farmer as an ordinary capitalist simply because for two months in the year he must hire help in planting and reaping, and the farmer looks upon the laborer as something to be bought for a month for so much. This master and slave idea is more apparent than real. There are many differences between the relation of the farmer to his hired help and that of the average employer of labor to his wage-worker. The farmer works side by side with his hired man the same number of hours at least, and often longer; they sit at the same table, and sleep under the same roof. In these ways, they are in much closer relationship than is common ordinarily between employer and employee.

But the point to be remembered is that the farmer is actuated by getting as much work for as little wages as possible, while the hired man wants as much wages for doing as little as he possibly can. This is the spirit of capitalism, and this stands in the way of political unity.

The solution to this difficulty will appear when we move far enough away to see the true perspective. At close range we are blinded by the "illusion of the near." Stand off a mile or two and what do we see? We see that the pyramid of our social order rests on the shoulders of the farmer and industrial worker alike. On the top sits the land monopolist, the speculator, the money king. Next to them the politician and ruler that does their bidding, and supporting the whole structure stand the farmer and worker on the same basis.

Now, then, the farmer and the industrial worker must get this pyramid of social disorder off their backs. In this they are co-workers, if in nothing else, but if they stand there blindly jostling each other for the crusts that fall down from the top, their backs will bend under this load of injustice for all time.

The hour is approaching when the minor, and relatively unimportant differences must be forgotten. There is no political or economic freedom possible in Canada without the joint effort of farmer and industrial worker. Let these unite for action and there is no possibility of defeat. Leaders from both sections should get together immediately.

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## An Echo of '78

By "A Real Canadian."

As some of your readers may be interested in these memories of '78, I will be glad if space will permit you to publish them in your much appreciated organ, THE NON-PARTISAN.

You ask, What about '78? In reply I would say that that was the year of Jubilee in which was born the high tariff child of promise of great things, which was not to be to all people, but only to a favoured few. He came to his own in the fulness of time, and his own received him joyfully. Now, the star that led these wise men of the East at that time was the star of greed and selfishness and it led them not to a manger but to the star chamber at Ottawa, where the accouchement took place. Surrounded by statesmen (so-called) and budding profiteers who saw a new, profitable and even patriotic way of exploiting the people on the plea of giving employment (as though any corporation ever employed a man without expecting to make something out of him) this much heralded babe entered the commercial and political life of the people where he was destined to wield a pernicious influence on the public life of Can.da. Unlike another child of promise who came to save his people from their sins, this infant caused his people to sin in that he enabled men to take unfair profits from their fellow men, to gather where they had not toiled, and to reap where they had not sown.

The peculiar thing about this child was that his sponsors only asked the people to carry him on their backs for a short time until he found his commercial legs, when he would be able to walk alone, but strange to say, now at the age of forty years he is more helpless than ever, so that even during this terrible war our ultra loyal Government raised the tariff  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. so that British goods that escaped the German submarines had to run the gauntlet of our Canadian Customs officers. While still weak in the legs this incubus is strong enough in the arms to strangle the farmers and workingmen of the country in their efforts to get a square deal in the matter of trade with our neighbors to the south and while our boys are fighting and dying at the front for the liberty of the world the shackles of economic slavery are being riveted more firmly than ever on the necks of the workers of Canada.

In the election of 1911 the privileged interests raised the cry of no truck nor trade with the Yankees, and to clinch the argument the flag was waved and degraded to stampede the people and the man was branded a traitor who would dare to advocate the exchange of a pound of butter or a bushel of wheat for a can of fruit or a box of apples. So you can see by what a slender thread the safety of the Empire hung. How ridiculous this sounds in view of what has happened since, hundreds of millions of dollars have been borrowed from the Americans, and millions in contracts of shells and fuse have been given to American factories that could have been made in Canada.

In 1911 it was at the sound of the high tariff cymbals that the people bowed down, and in 1917 it was the rattle of the sabre in the hands of the big interests that the people were forced to prostrate themselves and again the people lost. As a result we are being ruled by a little coterie of insolent and domineering military autocrats who, clothed with a brief and temporary authority have flouted and ignored the orders of the Supreme Court of Alberta

which is at once the foundation and defence of our liberties, but the irony of the matter is that the same despised Yankees are now being looked to as the important factor in the winning of this war which we were told last fall was to be won as soon as the Union Government was fairly in the saddle. In effect Canada has been on the way from Jerusalem to Jerico for the last seven years, and has fallen among thieves, like the Flavelles, the Allison, and others of that ilk. The country has been robbed and left for dead morally, while both the Tory and Unionist Governments led by Robert the Unready have passed by on the other side.

We are told in the Good Book that Satan was to be bound for a thousand years and then to be liberated for a season and be permitted to tempt mankind. Now, I think I would be justified in saying that the time of his liberation synchronized with the election of 1911, as since that date Canadians have felt the power of the big interests as represented by the present Union Government.

Democracy has been a much abused word for the last, few years, and some seem to assume that we don't need any of this commodity for home consumption, but are in favor of shipping it all out of the country, especially to France and Flanders. Although a free trader, I would favor placing an export duty on democracy leaving Canada, and lower the bars and allow the same in free, our liberties have been taken away in the name of liberty.

Our Canadian boys have won the admiration of the world for their great victories in this great war to make the world free for people and nations of good will. Let us consider for a moment how these victories have been regarded by our rulers or rather servants at Ottawa. For the victory at Ypres, where the Canadians stemmed the Teuton tide, and thereby saved the channel ports, we get a  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. increase in the tariff. For the victory at the Somme we get a war-times election Act which disfranchised Canadian-born women who did not have a son at the front. Now, Nature or Providence might have been responsible for the fact of their not having sons, but the Government was responsible for them not having votes and women cannot have sons by Order-in-Council. For Vimy Ridge we get a 15 per cent. increase in railway rates, for the victory at Lens we have an Order-in-Council taking away the right of the Provinces to issue bonds, and for the second battle of Lens we get an Order-in-Council cancelling the exemptions granted to young men between the ages of 20 to 22. Following the victory at Courcellette we have another Order-in-Council cancelling the Supreme Court of Alberta, and the capture of Hill 60 by the Canadians was fittingly celebrated by the appointment of Billy Harmer to the Senate.

We might conclude that every victory won by our boys was followed by a defeat for the people at home.

—A REAL CANADIAN.

Calgary, July 15, 1918.

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# INDUSTRIAL UNREST IN CANADA

## Whither Are We Drifting?

The Canadian Government is deliberately ignoring one of the factors that is vitally affecting Canada's participation in the war. Manifestly a people disrupted by internal strife will not show a united front to the common enemy and effective organization towards a desired end will be impossible. That is a condition that is rapidly growing up in Canada.

The Government conducts an investigation into the cost of living and officially establishes the fact that there has been a tremendous increase in foodstuffs and general commodities that are necessities of life. Knowing that a general increase of wages is necessary in all trades and occupations if the workers are to maintain their efficiency and increase production, it leaves this readjustment to the tender mercies of individual employers who have never shown any marked alacrity under similar circumstances in the past to treat their workers—justly. The inevitable result, which the most superficial observer would anticipate, follows. The workers have recourse to the only weapon they possess—the strike, with the result that a condition little short of industrial anarchy reigns. Strikes are common all over Canada and many important industries have been held up while the war conditions continue to demand increased production.

That the Union Government is quite incapable of tackling the economic problems affecting Canada to-day is demonstrated by their inability to adjust promptly the grievances of the Postal employees. Through negligence and sheer lack of consideration on the part of the Government one of the most vital branches of national service has been paralyzed for several days by a strike of mail carriers and postal clerks. Instead of following the instructions laid down by the Government for employers of labor in the Industrial Disputes Act, they themselves arbitrarily refuse to grant the request of their employees for a board of arbitration to hear their grievances and settle the question of wage increases. They state that there is no precedent for such a course of action and imply that a strike of civil service employees is little short of 'lese majesty.' Fortunately the cry of disloyalty cannot be raised against the strikers as many of them are returned veterans who after fighting for democracy abroad find that autocratic conditions prevail in Governmental institutions in Canada that compel them to literally fight for at best a precarious existence.

The Government has within its power a great precedent shattering instrument in the form of the much maligned Order-in-Council. They have already demonstrated the efficiency of this weapon when the exigencies of the war demanded that no legal carrier should obstruct the drafting of men into the Army. Another increase in freight and passenger rates by the railroad companies has been sanctioned by means of an Order-in-Council so that machinery does actually exist which can be used just as easily in the interests of the workers of Canada as in the interests of a special class, if conditions warrant it. We do not believe that the Government would wilfully encourage the growth of Bolshevism in this country yet the present unrest if allowed to spread unchecked will certainly lead to the development of revolutionary tendencies.

It is not necessary to emphasize the seriousness of the situation as a glance at the number of strikes that have occurred

in the past six months will prove that resentment of present industrial conditions is on the increase. The present situation presents the minister of Labor with the opportunity of his life to justify his existence. Let his department draw up a minimum scale of wages applicable to the different trades and occupations which could then be enforced if necessary by Order-in-Council. Statistics would have to be prepared on which to base this minimum scale. Those could be gathered from representatives of the different organizations in the country. The views of students and thinkers and prominent men and women not directly interested in industrial organizations could be obtained with a view to discovering what is necessary to the full mental and physical development of the average man and woman. The chief aim would be to establish a minimum standard of living and make it a punishable offence for any employer to go below this.

Of course this task involves a great amount of work but is no more insuperable than the difficulty of raising, equipping, training and transporting half a million men to Europe. Some such step will have to be taken if our national efficiency is to be maintained during the war. Private enterprise without State regulation and control cannot carry on successfully the industry of a nation at war and the sooner our Government recognizes this fact the better it will be for Canada.

There is a strong suspicion in the minds of the workers, which is not entirely without foundation, that the monied interests have easy access to the ear of the Government. The capitalists view with alarm the demands of their employees for conditions of labor that will allow them a fuller expression of individuality and are therefore doing all in their power to suppress and stamp out this growing aspiration of the worker for a place in the sun. Harmony more than anything else is needed in Canada to-day and this is what the Union Government was elected to accomplish. Has it justified the confidence of the electors? —"WAYFARER."

\* \* \*

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